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Section II (Remarks)**A. Acknowledgement of Closure of Prosecution and Allowance of Claims 1-13 and 18-23**

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 1-13 and 18-23 in the November 27, 2007 Office Action.

In connection with closure of prosecution on the merits, request hereby is made to rejoin withdrawn claims 14-17 and 24-31, pursuant to the rejoinder provisions of MPEP 821.04. It is noted in such respect that the withdrawn claims 14-17 relate to a method of forming a silicon compound or of using the claimed silicon compound of the allowed claims. Likewise, withdrawn claims 24-31 relate to use of a composition of the allowed composition claims.

Inasmuch as the withdrawn claims relate to methods of making or methods of use of the compositions of the allowed composition claims, and embody all limitations of such composition claims, it is requested that the withdrawn claims be rejoined.

B. Withdrawal of the Double Patenting Rejection

The withdrawal of the double patenting rejection, in connection with the allowance of claims in the November 27, 2007 Office Action, is acknowledged.

C. Submission of Clear Copy of the Claims

Pursuant to the examiner's request for same in paragraph 3 at page 2 of the November 27, 2007 Office Action, a clear copy of the claims is set out in Section I (Listing of the Claims) beginning on page 3 hereof.

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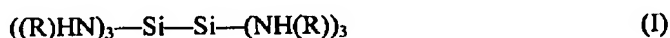
D. Remarks Concerning Potential Interference Relationship to U.S. Patent 7,019,159

In the November 27, 2007 Office Action, applicant's prior remarks concerning absence of basis for interference have been addressed by the examiner as not being convincing, for the stated reason that "claim 1 of the '159 patent clearly states that the monoalkylamino group substituents are independent...[T]his means that claim 1 of '159 reads on each silicon atom not simultaneously being the same C₁-C₄ monoalkylamino group" (paragraph 1 at page 2 of the November 27, 2007 Office Action).

In response, it is pointed out that the express language of such claim 1 of the '159 patent indicates that in fact all of the monohydrocarbylamino substituents of the claimed disilane are the same as one another.

In this respect, claim 1 setting out the formula (I) is reproduced below:

"1. A composition comprising hexakis(monohydrocarbylamino) disilanes with general formula (I)



wherein each R independently represents a C₁ to C₄ hydrocarbyl group."

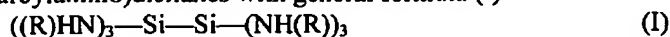
This claim contains the following recital of the respective R substituents:

"wherein each R independently represents a C₂ to C₄ hydrocarbyl group."

This wording for R uses the indefinite article "a" to refer to "C₁ to C₄ hydrocarbyl group." The language does not identify each R as being independently "selected" or "chosen," but states that each R independently "represents a C₁ to C₄ hydrocarbyl group" (emphasis added).

This wording in claim 1 is to be contrasted with language at column 1, lines 56-61 of the '159 patent:

"The first aspect of this invention provides hexakis(monohydrocarbylamino)disilanes with general formula (I)



wherein each R independently represents C₁ to C₄ hydrocarbyl."

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It is apparent that in relation to the above-quoted text of column 1, lines 56-62 of the '159 patent, the language in claim 1 introduced in the proceedings involving U.S. Patent Application 10/497,399 (the application on which the '159 patent ultimately issued) further limits the broad specification of "each R" to be "a [singular] C₁ to C₄ hydrocarbyl group." The further delimitation of "a...group" in claim 1 in relation to the more general "C₁ to C₄ hydrocarbyl" specified at column 1, lines 60-61 of the patent specification, evidences the patentees' particularization of their claimed invention as having R substituents all of which are the same.

The Office Action in this respect appears to accord a contrary position to the word "independently," but in the context of the file history and specification of the application, it is apparent that claim 1 has been delimited, in relation to the broad statement of invention in the specification, in a manner indicating that of all R substituents in the formula (I) molecule are identical, and that the term "independently" in context refers to the R substituents as being distinct chemical moieties, but as being the same as one another (as evidenced by the singular article "a" and the singular noun "group").

Consistent with the foregoing, the claims allowed in the present application to applicants are distinct from those of the '159 patent.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-13 and 18-23 have been allowed. Rejoinder has been requested of claims 14-17 and 24-31 under the provisions of MPEP 821.04. The distinctive character of the allowed composition claims in relation to the claims of U.S. Patent 7,019,159 have been elaborated.

A clear copy of the claims has been included as requested by the examiner.

The application now is in condition for allowance. Issue of a Notice of Allowance is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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